## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /124 W

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P R 161100Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 110 INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES USMISSION GENEVA USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL BRASILIA 1253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, PARM

SUBJ: UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD)

REF: STATE 26795

- 1. SUMMARY. OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH ITAMARATY (AZAMBUJA, DEPUTY CHIEF, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPT.) USING TALKING POINTS AS DIRECTED REFTEL, INDICATE GOB AT THIS STAGE IS MOVING CAUTIOUSLY ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND PREFERS TO FOCUS ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES BASIC TO ORGANIZING SPECIAL SESSION. AT LEAST ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES GOB IS APPARENTLY WILLING TO CONSULT WITH USG. END SUMMARY.
- 2. AZAMBUJA SAID BRAZILIAN DELEGATION TO PREPCON WOULD BE HEADED BY CARLOS ANTONIO BUENO, WHO IS GOB'S DELEGATE TO UN'S FIRST COMMITTEE. GOB HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHO WILL EVENTUALLY HEAD ITS DELEGATION TO THE SSOD. IN PREPCON, GOB WILL SUPPORT REGIONAL CANDIDACY OF ARGENTINE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP, A DECISION MADE EASIER BY APPARENT WITHDRAWAL OF SWEDISH CANDIDATE FOR POSITION. GOB CONFIDENTIAL

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ALSO SUPPORTS TREND ITAMARATY SEES DEVELOPING TOWARD PREPCON'S ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE SEPARATE COMMITTEES ON (1) THE GENERAL DECLARATION, (2) PRIORITY AREAS FOR DISARMAMENT, AND (3) INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE CONFERENCE.

3. AZAMBUJA NOTED THAT GOB SAW SSOD AS A SAFE MEANS TO

RELIEVE GROWING PRESSURES, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED, FOR A MAJOR DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. THE RISKS AND RAMIFICATIONS OF FAILURE WERE LESS SEVERE IN THE CONTEXT OF A SPECIAL SESSION THAN THEY WOULD BE IN THE BROADER SCOPE OF A SEPARATE GLOBAL CONFERENCE. SPECIAL SESSION ALSO HAS THE ADVANTAGE, IN GOB VIEW, OF USING THE EXISTING UN INFRASTRUCTURE WHILE AVOIDING STICKY QUESTIONS ABOUT HOSTING AND PAYING FOR A MAJOR SEPARATE CONFERENCE.

4. IN REFLECTING UPON THE GOB OUTLOOK TOWARDS SSOD, AZAMBUJA SAID GOB BASICALLY HAD A CONSERVATIVE APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT, AS ITS RECORD AT THE CCD WOULD WELL SHOW. IT WAS WARY OF GIMMICKRY OR QUICK-FIX SOLUTIONS, AND INSTEAD PREFERRED WELL GROUNDED STEP-BY-STEP EFFORTS THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO LASTING AGREEMENTS AND REDUCTIONS. WHILE GOB WAS CONCERNED ABOUT CONVENTIONAL ARMS REDUCTIONS, ITS PRIMARY INTEREST WAS WITH REDUCTIONS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AZAMBUJA ADDED THAT ONE INHIBITION ON PREPARATION OF THE GOB SUBSTANTIVE POSITION FOR THE SSOD WAS ITS DESIRE FOR A CLEARER IDEA HOW PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD FORMULATE US SALT POLICY. IN AN ASIDE AZAMBUJA NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SEEMED TO HAVE A BETTER TECHNICAL GRASP OF THE STRATEGIC ISSUES THAN ANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS.

5. REGARDING A RELATED DISARMAMENT FORUM, AZAMBUJA NOTED THAT USSR AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF CCD HAD RECENTLY APPROACHED ITAMARATY TO FORMALLY NOTIFY GOB OF FEB 15 SESSION OF CCD.

AZAMBUJA INDICATED THAT APPARENTLY USG HAD OVERLOOKED ONE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS CO-CHAIRMAN IN NOT ALSO PASSING FORMAL NOTIFICATION TO GOB. HE ASKED THAT OVERSIGHT BE REPORTED.

6. COMMENT. IMPLICATION WAS THAT GOB WOULD GUARD ITS IMAGE AS A RESPONSIBLE MODERATE PARTICIPANT CAREFULLY AT THE SSOD. END COMMENT.
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